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School Committee Minutes 04/13/2004

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2004

Present: Paul Schlichtman, Chair Joani LaMachia
Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair Suzanne Owayda
Martin Thrope, Secretary Sue Sheffler
Barbara Goodman

Superintendent: Kathleen Donovan
CFO Rob Addelson
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry
Sp. Ed. Director Marilyn Bisbicos

Call to order: 7:35 PM

Mr. Schlichtman thanked his colleagues for their support and outlined some of his ambitions during his tenure as chair. Mr. Schlichtman noted that the committee is doing its best to present a fair and responsible contract settlement and reappointed Suzanne Owayda and Jeff Thielman as the School Committee negotiating team. In an attempt to make meetings more efficient Mr. Schlichtman requested:

- .. That the committee use the parliamentary process of adopting the agenda at the start of meetings that would commit the committee to work within the time constraints of individual agenda items
- .. A request for unanimous consent for routine votes
- .. That proposed votes of substance are communicated in advance of meetings to allow time to think about potential votes and public needs
- .. To appoint a citizens' advisory committee to investigate how technology can be more productive and improve communications to the community
- .. Continue the use of monthly working meetings to provide less formal discussion on issues of concern.
- .. Glenn Koocher, executive director of MASC will facilitate the first working meeting on the supt. search on April 25th
- .. To reschedule the May 25th meeting to Thursday May 27th at 7:00 pm.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Suzanne Owayda thanked the numerous parents and community members for their volunteer efforts the past year when many programs were cut. Suzanne acknowledged the time talent and accomplishments. Certificates of recognition and appreciation were given to each school as well as to the Friends of AHS, AHS Teacher Appreciation groups, the APS Town wide thrift shop, Tom & Diane Briner for 5th grade science camp and the video production class for Comcast.

BREAK

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Janice Bakey- from the Martin Luther King Committee spoke on minority hiring relative to the superintendent search Carl Dawson, Stacey George, Martha Scott, Pat O'Brien, Mike Malone, Lisa Sullivan, Melissa Brown. All Peirce parents/community members spoke relative to Mrs. T's after school program at the Peirce School and their concern over miscommunication of the program not being offered in September.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Field Trip Approvals

AHS teacher Marie Raduazzo requested approval to take approximately 30 students to Germany & Poland to participate in "In the Footsteps of History" a tour of the concentration camps. The trip would be for 10 days during May of 2005 students would miss 5 days of school. The target group is 30 juniors and seniors from Ms. Raduazzo's past and present Holocaust classes. The tour operator is EF who offers a "Peace of Mind Travel Program", which allows a change of venue or travel voucher for groups up to 35 days to departure if the situation warrants. Chaperones include Ms. Raduazzo, her husband, 1-2 parents and 1-2 retired teachers. Cost is estimated to be \$2247.00

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to approve the AHS overseas trip "In the Footsteps of History" with the dates proposed run by Ms. Raduazzo.

Supt. Donovan requested approval of a field trip by the AHS Social Studies department to NYC to visit the UN on May 11th or 13th

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thrope it was unanimously

Voted approval of the AHS Social Studies field trip to NYC on May 11th or 13th.

2004-2005 School Calendar

Supt. Donovan presented the 2004-2005 school calendar to the Committee for their approval. Mrs. Donovan explained that the AEA is basically in agreement with the calendar with the exception of December 23rd which they requested off. The Superintendent did not agree with the request due to the late start of school in September and the possibility of the last day of school being June 28th with five snow days.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was

Voted to approve the 2004-2005 school calendar presented by Superintendent Donovan.

6-1 (Mr. Schlichtman – no)

Warrant Approval

CFO Rob Addelson requested approval on the following warrants:

By unanimous consent the Committee approved warrant # 04123 in the amount of \$320,920.43

By unanimous consent the Committee approved warrant #04130 in the amount of \$328,958.04

UPDATE ON AHS PRINCIPAL SEARCH

Dr. Gurry reported that the AHS principal search is proceeding actively. The job has been posted at The Boston Globe, Town of Arlington Web site and the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Administrators Association.

To date Dr. Gurry has received 13 applications for the position with the deadline for applications as April 23rd. An invitation to serve on the Screening Committee has been sent to: the Arlington Administrators' Association, The AHS AEA representatives, all faculty, all staff at AHS, student representative AHS, Arlington Schools Foundation, the APS Website, AHS parent Listserv and in the Arlington Advocate. Those wishing to be considered to serve on the screening committee should contact the Office of the Assistant Supt. by Friday, April 16, 2004. Meetings are expected to commence the week of April 26th.

DALLIN/PEIRCE TRANSITION

Supt. Donovan reported that if TM approves the rebuild of the Dallin School she would ask current Dallin principal, Bob Lynch, to transfer to the Peirce School during the construction period. Students in grade k-2 would be housed at Stratton, grades 3-4 at the Peirce and grade 5 at the Brackett. Mrs. Donovan continued stating that she was unaware of any communication between Mrs. T's program and Dr. Flaherty in which that program was asked to leave. Supt. Donovan did recommend housing two programs, Mrs. T's and a school run program similar to that at the Hardy School. Mrs. Donovan pointed out that space would be limited for both programs since the classrooms currently in use for that would not be available. The Committee discussed the process and lack of communication on the issue and agreed to refer the issue to the policy & Procedures subcommittee to outline what the process is in running an after school program. Mr. Schlichtman clarified that items to be addressed: 1) communication between the Superintendent, parents, directors, (the Superintendent will meet with all parties) 2) information surrounding fiscal questions, 3) policy issues.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope, seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to refer the process of after school programs in APS along with policy KFD Surplus Space for Extended Day Programs to the Policy & Procedures Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Ms. Goodman stated that the subcommittee met and revised the job description for the AHS principal and the House Dean and requested the committees' approval.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously Voted to approve the job description for the AHS principal as presented by the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment subcommittee.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded it was unanimously Voted approve the job description of the AHS House Dean as presented by the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment subcommittee.

Redistricting Advisory Team

Ms. Sheffler reported that the advisory team met and after having reviewed all pertinent data the decision was made that there is no room to make any changes in redistricting this fall if the Dallin is rebuilt. In the fall the advisory team will work on long-term district lines. In the meantime Ms. Sheffler requested that committee members continue to meet with their assigned schools to address any concerns. The redistricting web site now up and running.

Superintendent Search Committee

Suzanne reported that she met with Dominic Lanzillotti, the purchasing agent for the town, on Friday, March 26th to review the RFP for a search consultant.

The RFP was sent out on Thursday, April 1, 2004 to 12 search firms and the Central Register. The bid proposals are due by 11:00 am on Thursday, April 29th. The bid proposals come in two parts – the price proposal and the service proposals.

The subcommittee will meet after April 29th to look at the proposals to make sure they comply with the RFP. Those that comply will be distributed to the full committee along with a scoring grid. At the May 11th School Committee meeting members will discuss and narrow the proposals down to 3 or 4 search firms.

BUDGET UPDATE

Supt. Donovan and CFO Rob Addelson reported that at the budget revenue task force meeting the Board of Selectmen supported balancing the budget by cutting 1.1million from the town's negotiation allocation. Supt. Donovan was not in favor of any cuts to the budget stating that the school committee and teachers union are in mediation and such cuts would harm current negotiations. Mrs. Donovan pointed out that if the O'Neill formula is used that the schools would need to reduce their budget by \$600,000. Chairman Paul Schlichtman stated that he is not prepared to make any cuts to the school budget without a failed override. Members voiced disappointment over the lack of interest in an override by the Selectman and the Town Managers office.

SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Schlichtman set the new subcommittees and requested that members indicate their desire to serve on the existing openings.

By unanimous consent the subcommittee assignments were approved.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was Voted to enter executive session for the purpose of negotiations with no further business to be conducted upon return to open session except to adjourn. RC: Unanimous

EXECUTIVE SESSION 10:30 – 11:10 PM

By unanimous consent the Committee adjourned at 11:10pm.

Submitted by

Karen Tassone
Committee Secretary